

## ABSTRACT

An apparatus including a backing plate and at least one "U" shaped structure emanating from and secured to the backing plate to form a closed loop, and a method for attaching a pad of friction material to a backing plate are disclosed. The apparatus comprises at least one rigid structure attached to the backing plate in at least two places. These structures form at least one closed loop with the backing plate. The pad is formed around the structures, completely surrounding the structures. In the preferred embodiment, the structures are two "U" shaped loops made of friction material, so that the pad can continue to be used when the pad wears down to the level of the loops.